

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, April 11, 2003*

## CHIEF RAMSEY UPDATES CONGRESS ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Chief Ramsey this past week updated members of the US House Government Reform Committee on the progress of local law enforcement in the DC area in preparing for a terrorist attack or other emergency. The Chief told the committee that the MPDC and its law enforcement partners are significantly better prepared to respond to an emergency today than they were on September 11, 2001. The MPDC, in particular, has used approximately \$16.8 million in federal funding to upgrade its equipment, training and technology. For example, all MPDC members have been issued personal protection gear for operating in a "warm zone," and 141 officers have been equipped and trained as Special Threat Action Team members, to conduct operations in an actual "hot zone." The Chief said few, if any, major city police departments in the country have been able to equip their officers as well as the MPDC has. He also said that cooperation among federal, regional and local law enforcement agencies in the region is strong. Recently, the sharing of information and intelligence has been expanded to include major city police departments in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and elsewhere. In addition, the MPDC is participating with other DC government agencies in various community outreach and preparedness efforts. Ramsey said that traffic management remains a critical concern in the area even during normal circumstances. In an emergency, he said, people need to get information first and then make an informed decision about what to do—not simply get in their cars and try to drive, which could endanger them and cause massive traffic tie-ups.

① Read the Chief's complete statement to the committee at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2003/04/041003.shtml>

## DETECTIVES ARE INVESTIGATING A NUMBER OF HOMICIDES DURING THE WEEK

MPDC detectives are investigating more than 10 murders that occurred over the past week, including a triple homicide of three employees inside Colonel Brooks' Tavern in Northeast on April 6. The three employees were shot to death inside a freezer at the restaurant in an apparent robbery. MPDC technicians spent much of the week processing the extensive crime scene, and officers canvassed the area for potential witnesses and clues. In addition, Mayor Williams, Chief Ramsey, Ward 5 Councilmember Vincent Orange and others met with residents and community leaders to discuss the case, as well as safety concerns in the Brookland neighborhood. No arrests had been made in the case by week's end. The unusually large number of homicides over the past week included several murders that took place in indoor locations. These included the April 10 stabbing death of 83-year-old Lorraine Whitlock, a longtime community activist in her Northeast neighborhood. Her 60-year-old son has been arrested and charged with Murder I While Armed. The MPDC continues to offer a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for any unsolved homicide in the District.

① For information about recent homicides in DC, go the News Room at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp>

## “OPERATION FIGHT BACK” PRODUCES RESULTS

“Operation Fight Back” is a concentrated, multi-agency strategy spearheaded by the MPDC that is designed to tackle stubborn crime and disorder problems in neighborhoods throughout DC. The strategy involves a number of different approaches, including serving arrest warrants, conducting safety checkpoints, carrying out building and business inspections, towing abandoned vehicles, cleaning up trash and reaching out to residents in the community. The first “Operation Fight Back” was conducted in February 2003, in the 4400 and 4500 blocks of Gault Place, NE, in the Sixth District. In March, the strategy was brought to the Park View neighborhood of the Fourth District, in conjunction with the DC Housing Authority, the DC Fire and EMS Fire Prevention Bureau, the Court Supervision and Offender Services Agency, Neighborhood Action, Orange Hat Patrols and No Murders DC, Inc. Results included the serving of several warrants, various clean-up projects, and increased outreach to residents served by the Police Service Area (PSA) 414 team. Most recently, “Operation Fight Back” was conducted in PSA 509, targeting the 1200 blocks of 18<sup>th</sup> Street and 18<sup>th</sup> Place, NE. In addition to enforcement action, 17 abandoned vehicles were towed and tons of trash and debris were removed. Several “Fight Backs” have been scheduled for April, and Chief Ramsey has said that the strategy will be carried out on a regular basis in all seven police districts.

- ① For more information, including results of recent operations, click on:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/fightback.shtm>

## FOCUS ON...BURGLARY PREVENTION

Have you ever been locked out of your home? Were you able to get in anyway? Now think about it...if you could break into your own home, it's just as easy for someone else to break in, too. This is the time of year when home burglaries tend to increase. Many intruders will spend no more than 60 seconds trying to break into a home. And the best predictor of a future burglary is a past burglary. That is why it is so important for homeowners and renters to take preventative measures now, especially if you have been burglarized in the recent past. Strong locks, common sense, and good neighbors who look out for one another are among the most effective deterrents to burglars.

- ① The MPD website offers a number of tips to help keep you—and your property—safe and secure. View them at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/other/burglary.shtm>
- ① If your neighborhood association is interested in a presentation on burglary prevention, or any other crime prevention topic, contact the MPDC's Community Outreach Section at (202) 727-0783.

## NEWS & NOTES

**“Chatting with the Chief.”** Chief Ramsey discusses public safety in the District with host Stephanie Gaines-Bryant, and takes your phone calls too, on Tuesday, April 15, from 6:40-7 pm, during his monthly segment on WHUR 96.3-FM.

**2003 Boating Safety Classes.** Boating Safety Courses offered by the MPDC's Harbor Patrol Unit are under way. These courses are required for individuals to receive a Boating Safety Certificate. Details at [http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/harborclasses\\_03.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/harborclasses_03.shtm).

### DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 4/11/03)

- 2003: 69
- 2002: 58
- % Change: +19%

Arrests (week ending 4/5/03)

- Total: 629
- Drugs: 79
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 35

Firearm Recoveries (as of 4/8/03)

- Total: 528
- April: 52

Traffic Fatalities (as of 4/11/03)

- 2003: 10
- 2002: 19
- % Change: -47.4%

**Information, ideas, or comments about this service?** Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**